THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Necessary rectification and ruggedisation have been carried out. Full-fledged preparatory trials will be carried out in summer 2006.

(b) Production of Arjun Tank is continuing at Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi as per production schedule. Tanks will be handed over to the Army after the trials in summer 2006.

Phone Tapping

†930. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meting of CEOs of all public and private telecom companies, was convened by Union Home Minister some time back;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting and decisions taken therein;

(c) number of telephone-tapping incidents involving private telephone companies; and

(d) names of the companies against which action has been taken so far and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Only one instance of unauthorized tapping of Shri Amar Singh, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, has come to the notice of the Government. The Delhi Police has registered a case in this regard and a charge sheet has also been filed in this case.

Tapping of Phones of Members of Parliament

931. SHRI ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received complaints from the Members of Parliament about the tapping of their telephones;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken on those complaints and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, one instance of unauthorized telephone tapping of Shri Amar Singh, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, has come to the notice of the Government and the Government is taking appropriate action in this regard.

Organizations barred from getting foreign funds

932. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have barred more than 8600 voluntary organizations from seeking foreign funds under the Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act (FCRA) without getting the prior approval of Government;

(b) whether these barred institutions include Madras University, Punjab Univeristy, Jamia Millia Islamia and Indira Gandhi National Open University and such other purely academic institutions; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission had advised that monitoring of foreign funds be brought under the scanner of Ministry of Finance under Foreign Exchange Management Act to ensure more accountability and transparency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, associations registered or granted prior permission are mandated to submit annual accounts in prescribed FC-3 form regarding foreign contribution received and utilized during the financial year to the Central Government within 4 months of the close of financial year i.e. till 31st July of the following year. Even if there is no transaction during the year, submission of 'NIL' report is mandatory.

8,673 associations, which failed in submitting FC-3 return in successive 3 years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were put in prior permission category under the proviso to Section 6 (1) of the Act, vide Gazette